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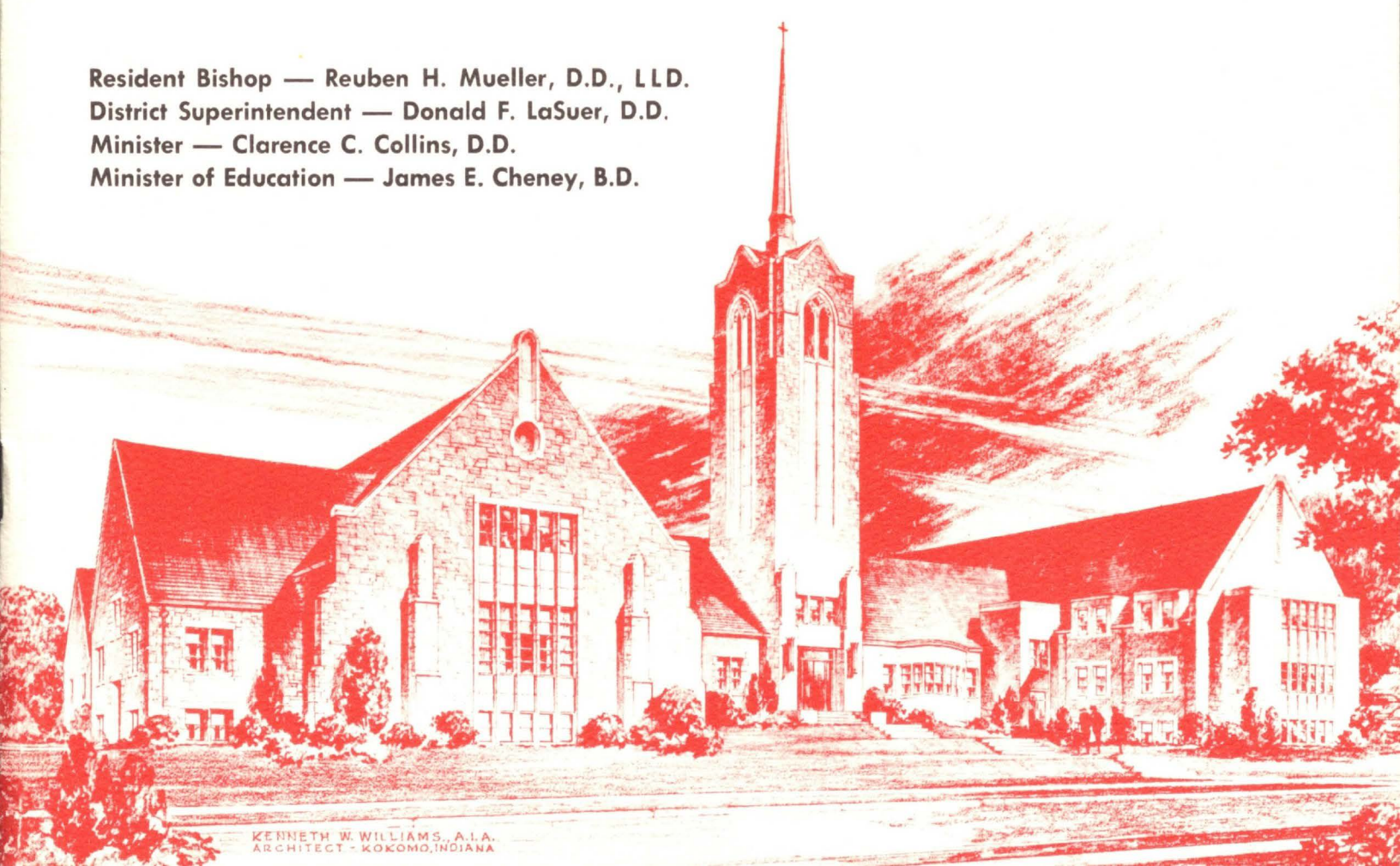
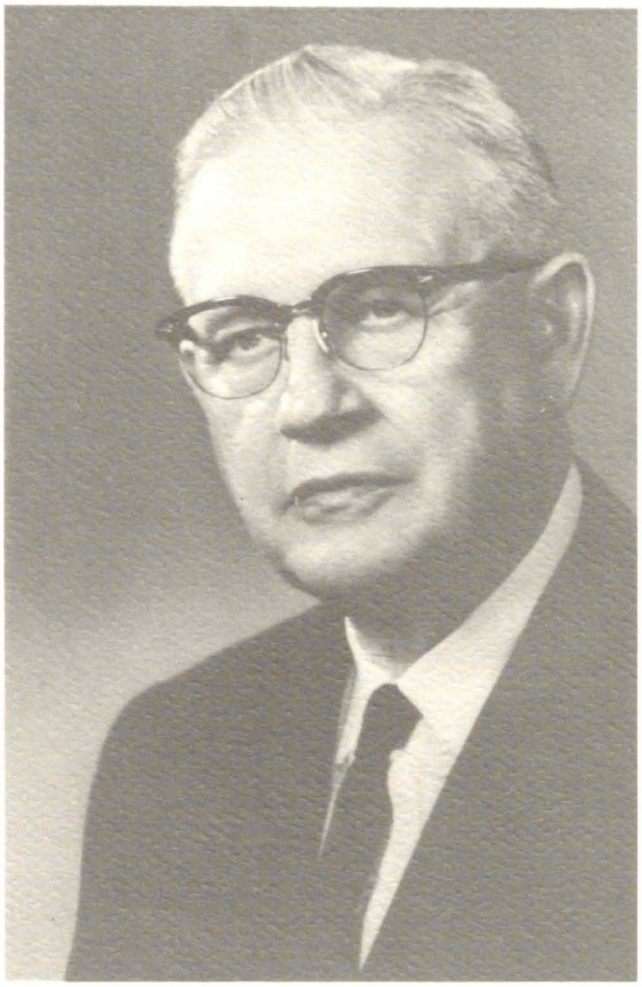
# SERVICE OF DEDICATION

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
## GRIFFITH, INDIANA

**Resident Bishop — Reuben H. Mueller, D.D., LLD.**
**District Superintendent — Donald F. LaSuer, D.D.**
**Minister — Clarence C. Collins, D.D.**
**Minister of Education — James E. Cheney, B.D.**





# Our Bishop

*BISHOP REUBEN H. MUELLER, D.D., L.L.D.*

The members of First United Methodist Church in Griffith, Indiana are to be congratulated upon having reached another important milestone of accomplishment. The services of dedication highlight much loyalty and sacrifice which has made these adequate facilities possible. Now that your building is free of financial problems, it is my prayer that the larger efforts of your people may now be turned to the lighter tasks of the Kingdom of God. I pray that in the days ahead you will be strengthened toward the high calling toward which all these efforts have been given.

Most sincerely,
Reuben H. Mueller, Bishop

# Our Superintendent

*DR. DONALD L. LaSUER*

Congratulations to the pastors, leadership, and people of the First United Methodist Church of Griffith upon the successful payment of all debts on your building. May you be found faithful in all your life and work in Jesus Christ.

Donald F. LaSuer
District Superintendent, Calumet District

# *Our Staff*

*SENIOR MINISTER*
Clarence C. Collins, D.D.

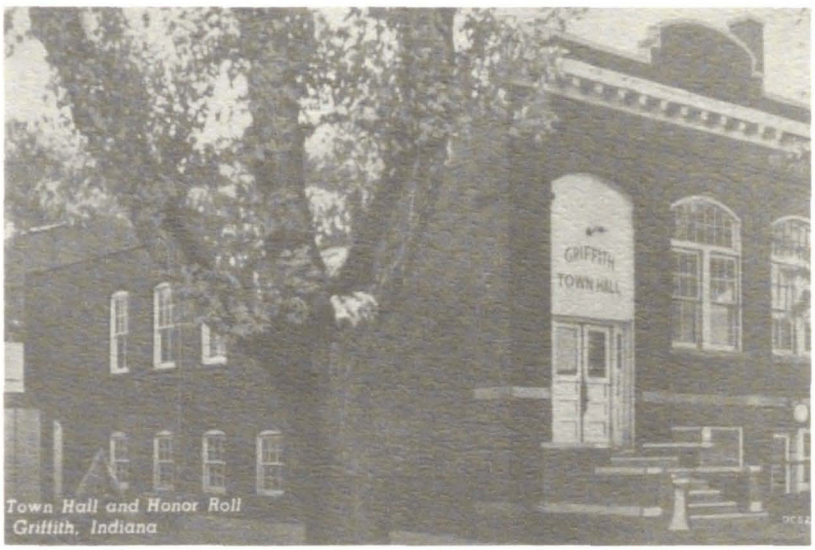
*MINISTER OF EDUCATION*
James E. Cheney, B.D.

*SECRETARY*
Mrs. Robert Thompson

*FINANCIAL SECRETARY*
Mrs. William Martz

# *Our History*

The development of Methodism in Griffith began with the appointment of two supply ministers, the Reverend E. T. George and the Reverend A. W. Smith, by the Northwest Indiana Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church in 1893. Religious services were held in homes, storerooms, and then in the Town Hall. The first "class" was organized in 1914 with the Reverend R. O. Hills, a student at Garrett Seminary, as the minister.

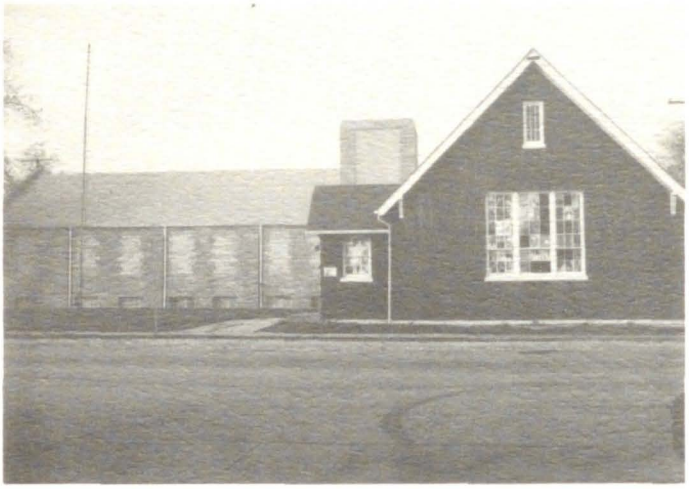


Town Hall and Honor Roll
Griffith, Indiana

The first building was erected in 1915, consisting of a basement, two classrooms and sanctuary. The cost was $5,000 and the membership was only twelve. By 1917 it had grown to sixteen of which William and Adolph Penning and Clayton Watkins are still active members. In 1920 the church building burned forcing the group to meet again in the Town Hall.

In 1921 a new building was placed at the northeast corner of Broad and Columbia Streets. Constructed of brick this T-shaped building included a sanctuary seating 200, six classrooms on the second floor and in the basement, also a dining room and kitchen. There were 61 members on the roll and 122 in the Church School. Mrs. Emma Summers Collins organized the first Chancel Choir.

During the six-year pastorate of the Reverend Marion Bishop the leadership more than doubled and the Church School attendance increased 70%. In 1950 the new addition, at a cost of $73,000 which provided more classrooms, a chapel, church office and minister's study was constructed of Bedford stone, with the windows of cathedral art glass.



Situated in the rapidly expanding and cutting edge of the Chicago suburban area it soon became evident that new quarters must be sought. During the long and very successful pastorate of the Reverend W. M. Littrell a new interest in building for the future began to stir among the members. On September 13, 1959 ground was broken for the relocation of the congregation with the Reverend Otis Collier, district superintendent as speaker. After Building Committee members each turned a spade of earth, children and adults together pulled an old fashioned plow across the earth breaking more ground.

On July 24, 1960 at four o'clock in the afternoon the service for Laying the Cornerstone was held on the new site. Into the cornerstone were placed Volume I, Issue I of Together, Revised Standard Version of the New Testament and Psalms, a copy of the 1956 Discipline, the Order of Worship for Ground Breaking and Cornerstone laying, a history of the First United Methodist Church in Griffith, the Year Book of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Budget, a list of the Members and Official Board Members.

The architect for the building of this edifice was Mr. Kenneth Williams of Kokomo, Indiana and on August 26, 1959 the contract was awarded to the A. B. Cooper Construction Company of Gary, Indiana.

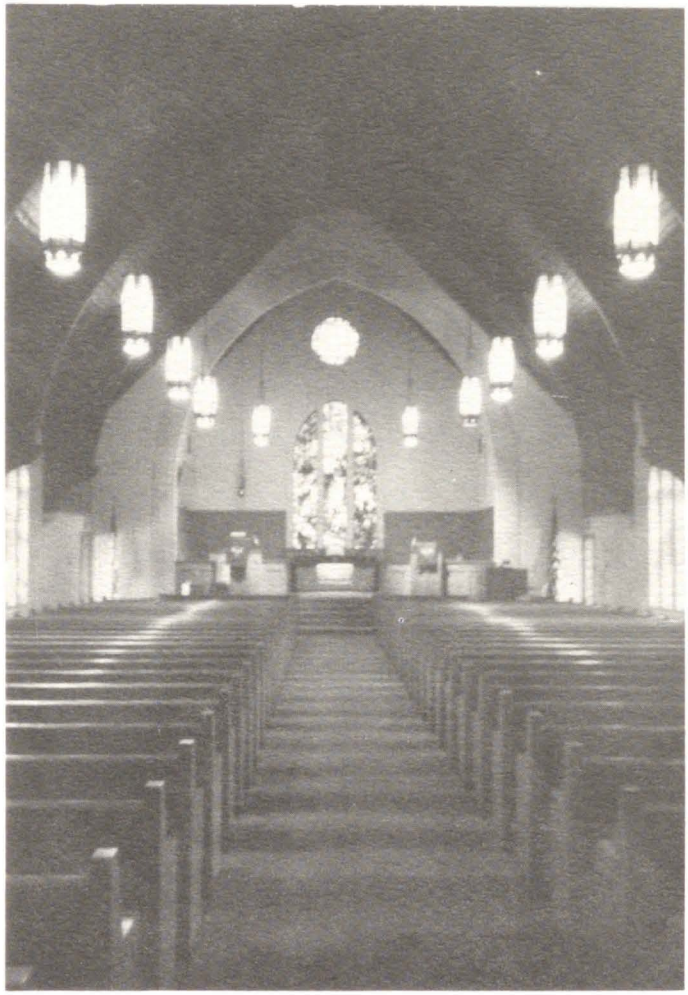
Many anxious persons were constantly watching as the building began to slowly rise above the horizon. Foremost among these were the Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Lynn Darin, Mr. Elmer Yahnke, Treasurer, and the Reverend Wilburt M. Littrell, minister.

In 1941 the women of the church organized the Women's Society of Christian Service which played a large part in the new building becoming a reality in later years. When the move was made into the new facilities, Mrs. Clarence Downey was president and gave able direction in the planning and equipment of the new kitchen.

At the present time Mrs. Frances Ready is president and has led the society in a number of interesting projects that have made significant contributions to the life of the women in the church. The six circles meet monthly under the guidance of chairmen and co-chairmen while the president supervises the work of the society when they meet once a month in Littrell Fellowship Hall.

The beautiful Chrismon tree, created under the leadership of Mrs. Dan Mercer, is a gift to the church from the members of the society. The religious symbols were also made by members of the society clearly indicating the craftsmanship and creativity of its women.

Through their contributions World Missions is supported annually, the Lucille Raines Home for Girls in Indianapolis is aided in its mission, Mental Health, local projects in the district and conference, and many other worthwhile needs claim the attention and financial support of the women.



On February 15, 1961 the move into new facilities was completed and the Consecration Order of Service was held on Sunday, April 23rd with Bishop Richard Campbell Raines, Bishop of the Indiana Area of The Methodist Church as the preacher. In this he was assisted by Dr. Otis L. Collier, superintendent of the Calumet District, the Reverend Wilburt M. Littrell, Senior Minister, the Reverend Roger Lynn, Associate Minister, and the Chancel Choir under the direction of Mrs. Milford Christensen, with Mrs. Donald Smith at the organ. Presentation of the building for Consecration was made by Mr. Lynn Darin, Chairman of the Building Committee.

The governing body of the church, the Official Board, administered the business of the church during the period of building and financing the debt. The Trustees carried the responsibility for the board acting as the legal corporation. And the debt was successfully completed while Mr. Elmer Yahnke served as the chairman of board, now known as the Administrative Board.

From a membership of 12 to more than 1,600 members the church has expanded until now it must serve many, many more in days of growth and rapid development. We must accept the dare of the future and face ahead.

*Our Ministry*

*Through Education*

Classes

Secretary

and Teachers
At Work

## DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Arrangements: Chairman – Russell J. Hunt, Jr., I. J. Roberts, Larry Stuber, Richard Ringer, Grant Akin, Mrs. Frances Ready, Mrs. Joseph Osborn, Gregg Allman, Sally Newhard, Mrs. Walter Black and Reverend James E. Cheney.

Finance: Chairman – Richard Van Strien, Richard McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Darin, Luther Wiley, George Bredesen, W. R. Barnett and Jack Tubbs.

Program: Chairman – Elmer Yahnke, Co-Chairman – Dr. C. C. Collins, Ron Piercy, Joseph Green, Herbert Book, Laura Neukranz, Mrs. Terry Kurowsky, Larry Alger, Dean Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Congleton and Gordon Lorentz.

Publicity: Chairman – Mrs. Nelson Keaton, Mrs. James Holycross, Don Watkins, and Dr. C. C. Collins.

## ORDER OF EVENTS

**Sunday, November 28, 1971** **Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.**

Preacher – The Reverend Dr. Wilburt M. Littrell
Superintendent of The Lafayette District of The North Indiana Conference, The United Methodist Church.

2:00 P.M. Concert by The Altar and Chancel Choirs

The Prelude – "Mit Freuden Zart" ..... Cardlyn
Mrs. Donald Smith, Organist

Lord, Make Me Thine Instrument ..... York
Chancel Choir

When I'm Feeling Lonely ..... Avery and Marsh
God's Love For Me ..... Chitwood
He's Able ..... Paino
Altar Choir

Seek Ye the Lord ..... Roberts
Mr. Richard Ready, soloist

Be Thou My Vision ..... Godfrey
By the Waters of Babylon ..... James
Chancel Choir

O Let Me Walk With Thee ..... Chitwood
The Children's Creed ..... Anon.
Altar Choir

I Waited for the Lord ..... Mendelssohn
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Metcalf
Duet with Chancel Choir

Praise to the Lord ..... Fryxell
Chancel Choir

Postlude in C ..... Rinck
Mrs. Donald Smith

Director Altar Choir ..... Mrs. Richard Curtis
Director Chancel Choir .... Mrs. Milford Christensen

# *The Service of Dedication*

**The First United Methodist Church**

**Griffith, Indiana**

**December 5, 1971** **10:00 A.M.**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE ORGAN PRELUDE – "Toccato on Picardy" – Young ..... Mrs. Donald Smith

FOR MEDITATION –

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.
For we are laborers together with God.
For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
Establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION –

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, who didst come in Jesus Christ to show forth thy love to the world; we praise and bless thee for the church, through which thou dost continue to work for the salvation of men. We bless Thee for hours of worship when we lift up our eyes and behold, beyond the things that are seen and temporal, the things that are unseen and eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE INTROIT ..... The Altar and Chancel Choirs

THE CALL TO WORSHIP ..... The Reverend James E. Cheney

Minister: Surely the Lord is in this place.

**People: This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.**

Minister: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

**People: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.**

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN – "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" ..... No. 26

THE CALL TO PRAYER ..... Dr. Clarence C. Collins

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

THE INVOCATION

THE COLLECT (In unison)

O God, by whose providence we celebrate the dedication of this church; Send down upon us, we beseech thee, thy heavenly blessing; and, because holiness becometh thine house forever, make us living temples, holy and acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER ..... The Chancel Choir

INFORMAL MOMENTS

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***

THE ANTHEM – "The Witness Song" – Chitwood ..... The Altar Choir
Director – Mrs. Richard Curtis, Organist – Brian Aranowski

*THE RESPONSIVE PSALM ..... No. 561

*THE CONFESSION OF FAITH ..... No. 738

*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE LESSONS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 55:6-13 ..... Monsignor Leo Hildebrandt

New Testament Lesson – Ephesians 2:13-22 ..... Dr. Wilburt M. Littrell

*Congregation standing
***Ushers will seat those waiting

THE MOMENTS OF SILENT MEDITATION

THE PASTORAL PRAYER ..... Dr. Donald F. LaSuer

Choral Response

THE ANTHEM: "Lord God, Our Thanks to Thee We Raise" ..... Norman Johnson

Lord God, our thanks to Thee—the great eternal Trinity! Lord God, our thanks to Thee we raise, for those who built this house of praise, Who long ago together stood To form a Christian brotherhood. Here have our children known Thy care And raised their thoughts to Thee in prayer; Here have we shared the Wine, the Bread, And here our living souls are fed. Still thru the years be Thou our guide, Keep us from enmity and pride; Still help us choose the better part A humble and thankful heart. Be this our common enterprise: That truth be preached and prayer arise, That each may seek the other's good, And live and love as Jesus would. Create in us the word, the deed, That ours may be a living creed; And cause Thy grace in us to dwell Abide with us, Immanuel! Hear Thou our prayer! Hear Thou our praise! Lord God, to Thee our thanks we raise!

***

The Altar Choir

THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Offertory — "Magnificat Fuge" ..... Pachelbel

The Offertory Prayer ..... The Reverend James E. Cheney

The Doxology

THE SERMON ..... Bishop Reuben H. Mueller
Bishop of the Indiana area

*THE ACT OF PRESENTATION ..... Lynn Darin, Mrs. Clarence Downey, Kim Davis, Thomas Peters, Larry Struber, Elmer Yahnke, Luther Wiley and Warren Zimmerman

We present this building, the First United Methodist Church of Griffith, Indiana, to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of men.

*THE ACT OF DEDICATION ..... Bishop Mueller

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of his name. I now accept this building to be known as the First United Methodist Church, that we may dedicate it, and set it apart for the worship of almighty God and the service of men. Let us, therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

The Bishop: To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;
To the honor of his Son, who loved us and gave himself for us;
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

The Bishop: For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the preaching of the everlasting Gospel;
For the celebration of the holy Sacraments;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

The Bishop: For the comfort of all who mourn;
For strength to those who are tempted;
For light to those who seek the way;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

The Bishop: For the hallowing of family life;
For teaching and guiding the young;
For the perfecting of the saints;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

The Bishop: For the conversion of sinners;
For the promotion of righteousness;
For the extension of the kingdom of God;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

The Bishop: In the unity of the faith;
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;
In charity and good will to all;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

The Bishop: In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve the church;
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**The People: We dedicate this house.**

*Congregation standing

***Ushers will seat those waiting

THE DEDICATION OF THE CONGREGATION (To be prayed by all)

We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION ..... Bishop Mueller

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS ..... Dr. C. C. Collins and Rev. J. E. Cheney

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN – "The Church's One Foundation" ..... No. 297

THE POSTLUDE – THE CHORAL RESPONSE

## PAST AND PRESENT PASTORS ASSIGNED

1893 – E. T. George and A. W. Smith, to the area including Griffith

1914 – R. O. Hillis organized the "first class"

1917 – Orville P. Mankers

1918 – Rev. Hershberger

1919 – W. A. Moore

1921 – Roy O. Hills

1922 – R. S. McCutcheon

1924 – Roy W. Michel

1927 – J. J. Bailey

1931 – J. E. Milnes

1936 – Gustave A. Trodie

1944 – Ed. Warne

1945 – Harold K. Joyce

1947 – Marion C. Bishop

1952 – Wesley Brashares
Associate – DeWayne Woodring in 1955

1956 – Wilburt M. Littrell
Associates – Donald Spalenka
James Taylor
Roger W. Lynn
Robert Hansen
James E. Cheney

1968 – Clarence C. Collins
Min. of Ed. James E. Cheney

This brochure for our dedication activities has been provided by the financial support of The Women's Society of Christian Service and The United Methodist Men.

# *Our Ministry Through Fellowship*

SENIOR
CITIZENS

ENJOY
LIVING

Membership Classes
**Members Enjoy Each Other**

# *Our Ministry Through Activities*

## WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

President—Frances Ready
Vice-Pres.—Alice Hamill
Vice-Pres.—Helen T. Collins
Secretary—Linda Mullaney
Treasurer—Aretta Price

### CIRCLE LEADERS

Virginia Johnson Circle
  Betty Day—Chairman
  Audrey Darnell—Co-Chairman
Vera Hughlett Circle
  Mary Litherland—Chairman
  Cathy McConnell—Co-Chairman
Martha McCutcheon Circle
  Naomi Penning—Chairman
  Thelma Anderson—Co-Chairman
Sue Heath Circle
  Tina Sanders—Chairman
  Ann Bredesen—Co-Chairman
Eunice Dodge Circle
  Linda Mullaney—Chairman
  Marilyn Riggle—Co-Chairman
Elizabeth Overby Circle
  Margaret Osborn—Chairman
  Evelyn Watts—Co-Chairman
Fellowship
  Bess Hunt—Chairman

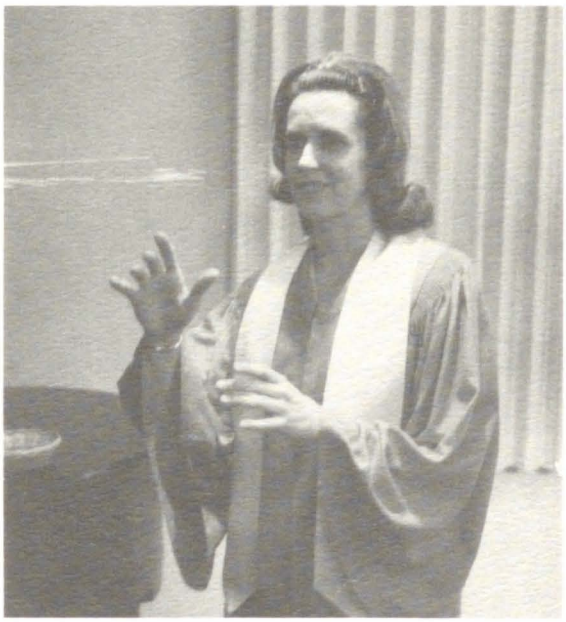
## UNITED METHODIST MEN

President—Larry Stuber
Secretary—David Pement
Treasurer—Arnold Nelson

# *Our Ministry Through Music*

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR & ORGANIST
MRS. MILFORD CHRISTENSON

ORGANIST
MRS. MARY SMITH

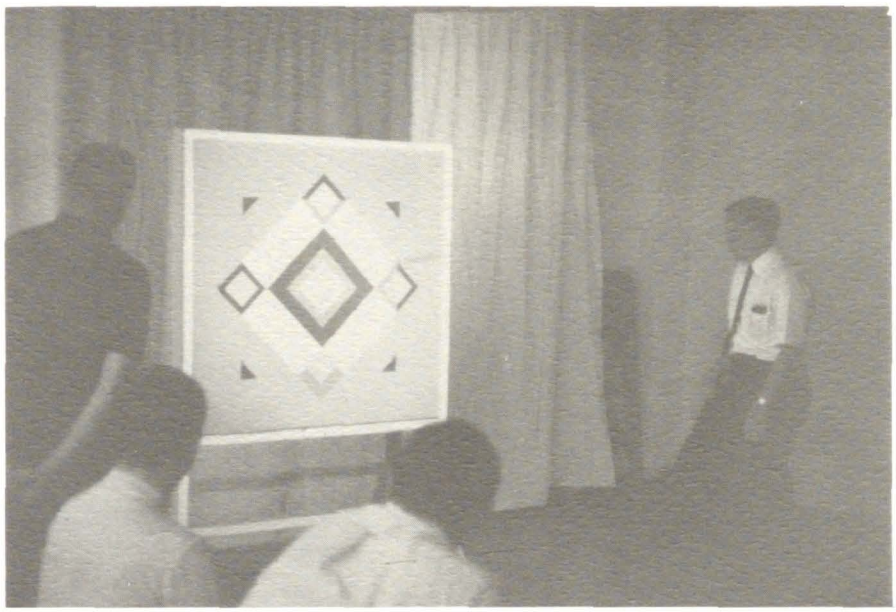


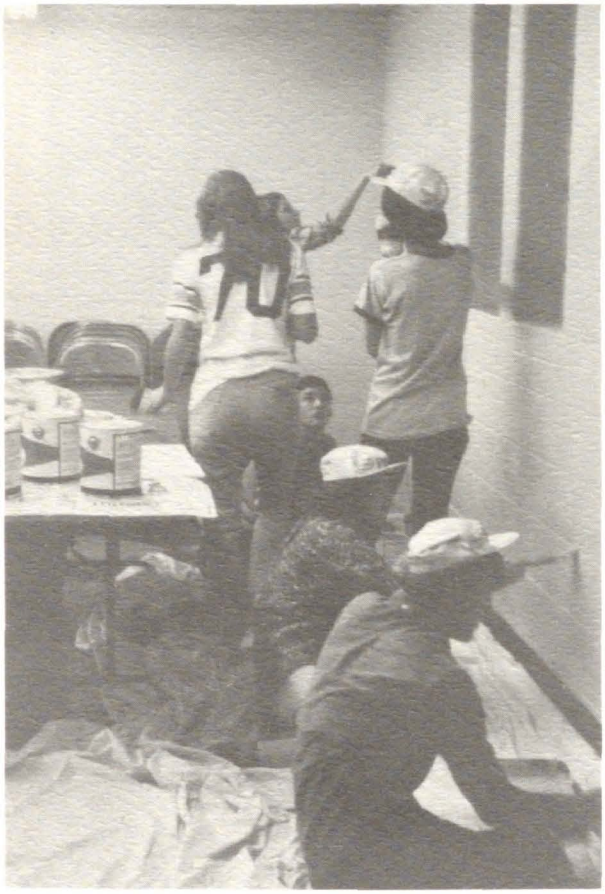
ALTAR CHOIR DIRECTOR - MRS. NANCY CURTIS

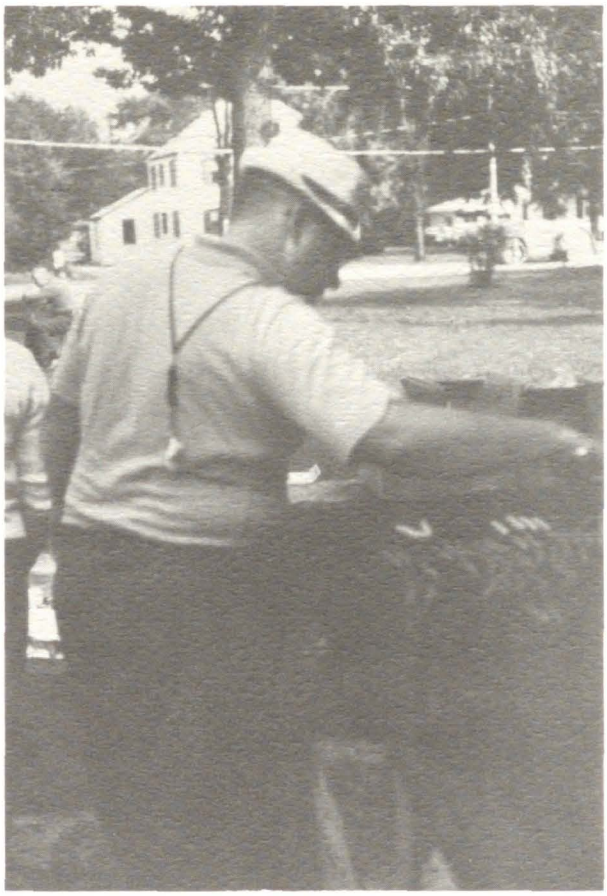
CHANCEL CHOIR

ALTAR CHOIR

# *Our Ministry Through Recreation*

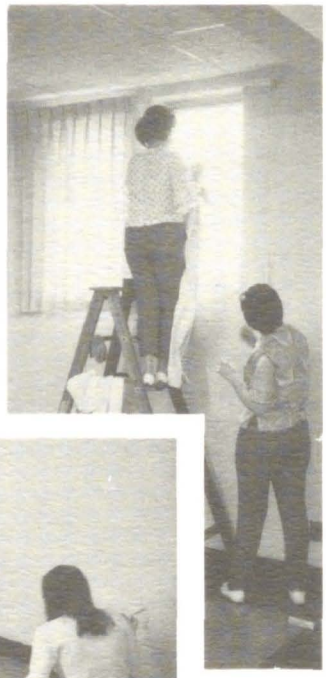


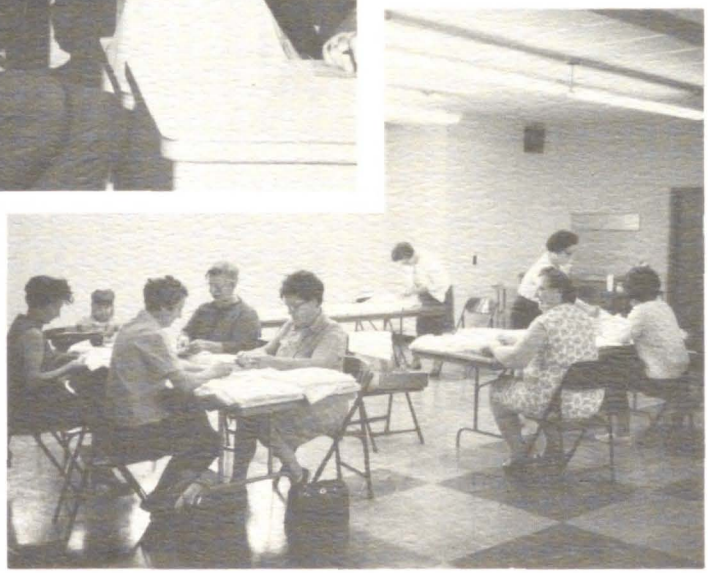


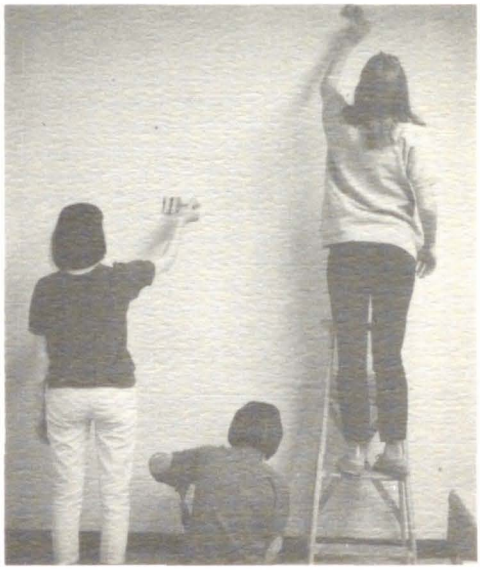


# *Our Ministry Through Scouting*

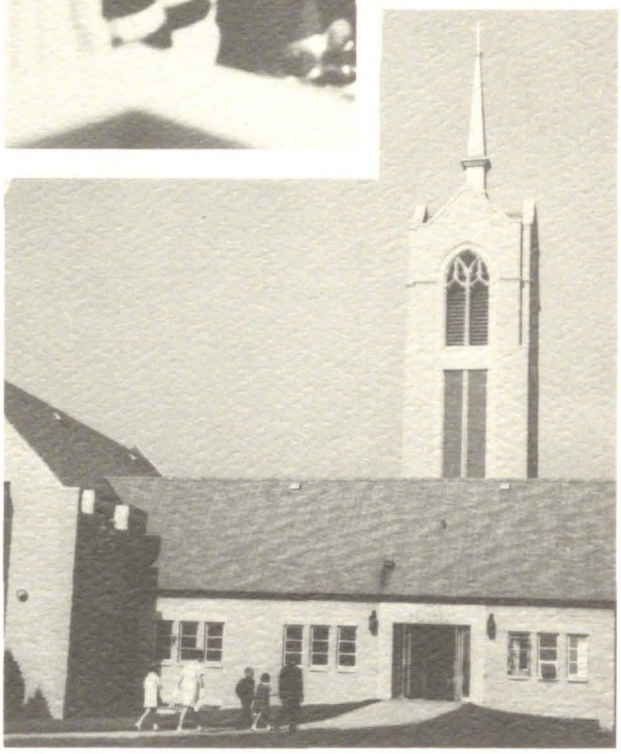
# *Through Service We Share*

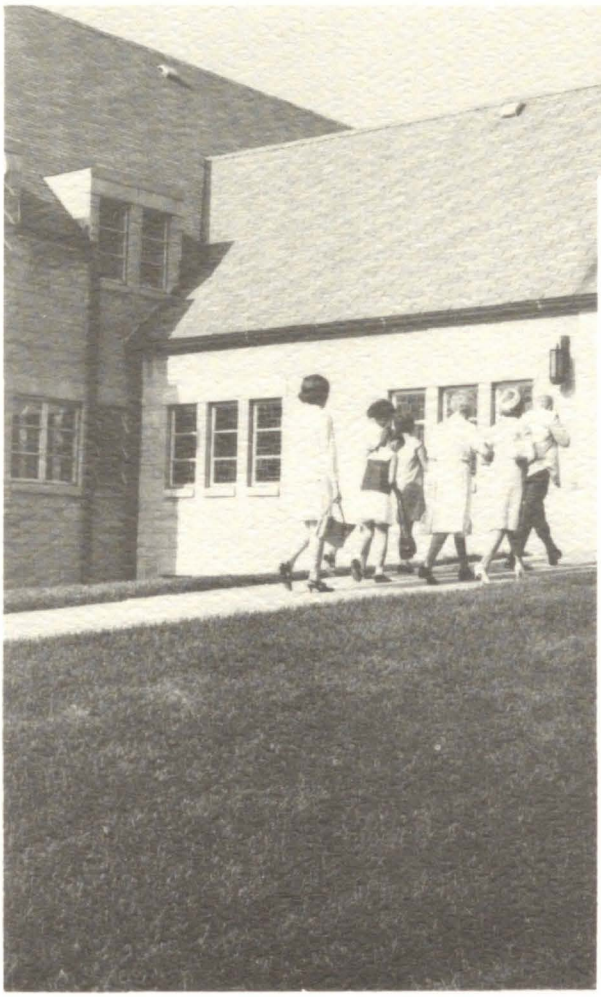


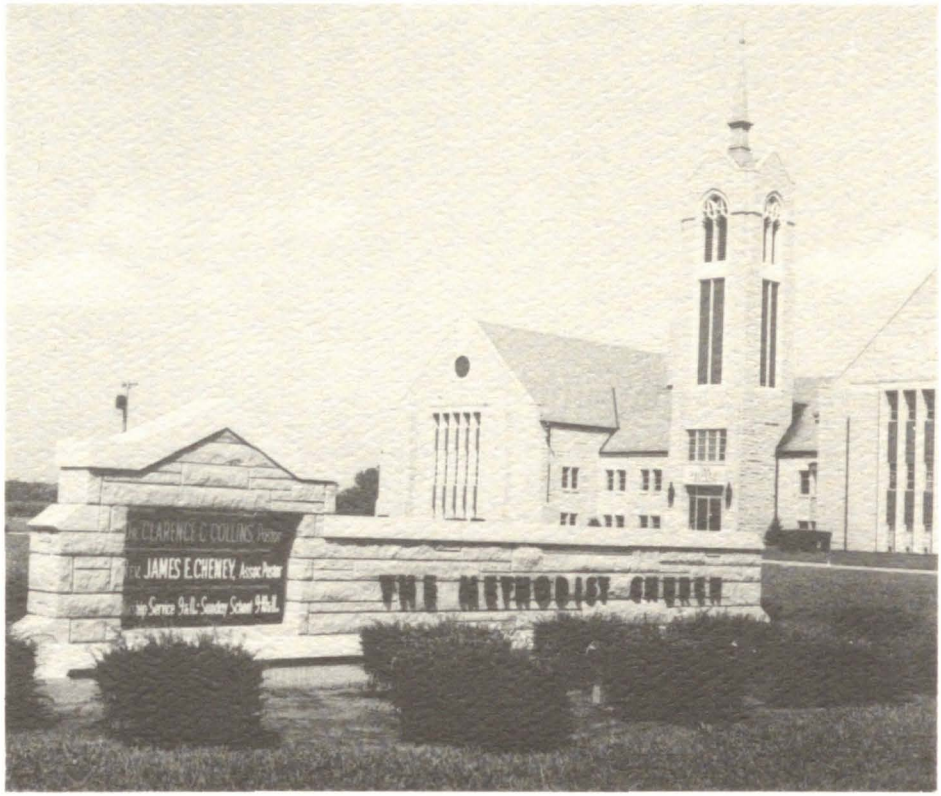




# *Our Ministry Through Worship*







# First United Methodist Church Roll of Honor

## MEMORIALS

**Altar Cross**
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Dahly
By Mrs. Thure Waller

**Altar Brass Flower Vases**
In memory of the Reverend Marion Bishop
By Mr. and Mrs. William Allen
In memory of Mr. C. M. Davis
By Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Lowe

**Altar Paraments — Red, Violet and Green**
In memory of Mrs. Pearl Book
By Mr. Herb Book and Family
In memory of Gus Brehm

**Altar Paraments — White**
In memory of Birda Downing
By Family and friends
In memory of Maude Powell
By Family and friends
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don Chalfant
By Family and friends

**Bride's Room Furnishings**
In memory of the Reverend Benjamin Rist
By the William O. Rist Family

**Carillon — Schulmerich**
In memory of Mrs. Frieda M. Christenson
By Mr. and Mrs. Milford P. Christenson

**Carillon Roll**
In memory of Mrs. Lucille Albright
By Mr. and Mrs. Richard Albright

**Chapel Candlesticks**
In memory of Ralph Schultz
By family and friends

**Directory Board in Narthex**
In memory of Mrs. Lela Hicks
By Mrs. Marvella Mattix and Family

**Flag Center — Front Lawn**
In memory of Mrs. Eleanor Beaty
By family and friends
In memory of Mrs. Lena Alger
By family and friends

**Hymnals — fifty copies**
In memory of Mrs. Wilma Malmstone
By Mrs. Roberta Hoekema and Mrs. Barbara Techner

**Hymnals — twenty-four copies**
In memory of Norman S. Taylor and Charles R. Taylor
By Mrs. Norman Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Coulter and Family, and Mrs. A. S. Taylor

**Interpreters Bible**
In memory of Mrs. Lela Hicks
By Mrs. Marvella Mattix and Family

**Morheim Blue Spruce — East Lawn**
In memory of Mrs. Hazel Johnson
By Mr. Howard Johnson

**Music for Choir**
In memory of Mr. Stephen Fulka
By Mrs. Gladys Fulka

**Piano in Littrell Hall**
In memory of Mrs. Bertha Watkins
By Mr. Clayton Watkins and Family

**Portable Roving Rostrum**
In memory of Mrs. Bertha Watkins
By Mr. Clayton Watkins and Family

**The Bible Window**
In memory of my wife Rachel Wilcox
By Mr. Glenn L. Wilcox

**The Chalice Window**
In memory of my husband Cletus V. Beaty and daughter Lolita Beaty
By Mrs. C. V. Beaty and Family

**The Rose Window of Christ**
In memory of our daughter Lynne Marie Martz
By Mr. and Mrs. William Martz

**The Ten Commandments Window**
In memory of my parents Sam and Mellue Woods
By Mrs. Wilma Malmstone

**The Vine Window**
In memory of my husband Mr. Wallace L. Pitt
By Mrs. Wallace D. Pitt and Family

**The Wesley Windows in Chapel**
In memory of Austin and Anna Bailey
By Dr. and Mrs. Joyce J. Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey, and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Slaughter, Jr.

**Organ Fund Gifts**
In memory of parents of Mr. William B. Patterson
By Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ecklund
In memory of Mr. Victor Burket
By Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ecklund
In memory of Mrs. Clarence DeReamer
By Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Sypult
In memory of Mr. Charles E. Coulter
By Mr. and Mrs. Marion Coulter and Family
In memory of Mrs. Clara Smith
By Bert Smith and Family
In memory of Mr. Cyril Schaefer
By Mrs. Evelyn Schaefer and David

**Other Gifts**
In memory of Mr. Sylverser Karnisky
By Office employees General American Transportation Corporation

## SPECIAL GIFTS

**Altar in Sanctuary**
By Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. Paul

**Altar Candlesticks**
In honor of our beloved children
Linda Ruth and Douglas Allen
By Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Black

**American and Christian Flag Set**
By Boy Scout Troop No. 531, sponsored by The First United Methodist Church

**Audio System in Sanctuary**
By Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Riggs, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer F. Yahnke, and
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Barnett

**Baptismal Font**
By Mr. and Mrs. Elmer F. Yahnke and Dr. David Yahnke

**Brass Baptismal Bowl**
By Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Scott and
Mr. and Mrs. William Hageman

**Communion Set and Office Equipment**
By Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Patterson

**The Eternal Light**
By Mr. and Mrs. Roger B. Tennant and Family

**Four Brass Offering Plates**
By Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Dozsa

**Four Brass Offering Plates**
By Mrs. David Todd

**Guest Register**
By Mr. and Mrs. Denato Migliorini and sons Dan and Robert

**Hymnals — four hundred and fifty copies**
By an anonymous donor in 1966

**Lighting for the Chapel**
By Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nasby and
Mr. and Mrs. Russell F. Evans

**Lounge Kitchenette Refrigerator**
By Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Darin and Family

**Philodendron Planter in Church Parlor**
By Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bretzius

**Pulpit and Lectern Paraments, Altar Linen**
By Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Congleton, James and Janice

**The Dove Window and Redwood Planter in Bay Window**
By Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hayden and Laura Lee

**The Lamp Window**
By Mr. and Mrs. Cyril C. Schaefer and
Mr. David Schaefer

**The Praying Hands Window**
By Johnson-Royce Funeral Home

**The Torch Window**
By Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Newcomer and Family

Memorial or Special Gifts inadvertently omitted may be added by informing the Church Office.